

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 01814 141507Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6384
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JOHANNESBURG 1814

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SF
SUBJECT: PROGRAM OF SOWETO'S NEW COMMITTEE OF TEN

1. SUMMARY: COMMITTEE OF TEN IN SOWETO INTENDS PRESENT ITS PROGRAM FOR GOVERNMENTAL REFORM TO LARGE PUBLIC AUDIENCE IN SOWETO WITHIN WEEK AND THEN ATTEMPT SELL BLUEPRINT TO SAG. PROGRAM IS TO ESTABLISH SOWETO AS LEGAL MUNICIPALITY, LIKE WHITE JOHANNESBURG ITSELF, BUT DIRECTLY UNDER SAG AND NOT TRANS-VAAL PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 13 CONGEN AND BPAO MET DR HARRISON MOTLANA, HEAD OF SOWETO'S COMMITTEE OF TEN (PROPERLY, SOWETO LOCAL AUTHORITY INTERIM COMMITTEE OR SLAIC). MOTLANA SAID SLAIC WAS OF COURSE SELF-APPOINTED AND NEEDED SEEK PUBLIC APPROVAL ITS PROGRAM AT LARGE MEETING IN SOWETO WITHIN WEEK. GENERATIVE FORCE WITHIN SLAIC IS BLACKS' PERCEPTION THAT OLD INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENTAL BODIES (LUKE UBC AND SCHOOL BOARDS) HAVE BEEN DISCREDITED AND
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PAGE 02 JOHANN 01814 141507Z

ABANDONED AND NEW STRUCTURE WAS NEEDED, NEEDED AS MUCH BY SAG AS BY BLACKS. ONE MEMBER OF SLAIC, LEONARD MOSALA (ONLY FORMER UBC MEMBER OF TEN) HAD SEEN TWO OF SAG'S DRAFT PLANS FOR REPLACEMTNT OF UBC WITH NEW STRUCTURE, AND ALL SLAIC MEMBERS WERE "AGHAST" AT REVELATIONS. ACCORDING MOTLANA, PLANS ENVISAGED NEW SOWETO CITY COUNCIL BASED ON ETHNIC DIVISION AND REPRESENTATION, EVEN WITH PROVISION FOR ELECTION OF URBAN TRIBAL CHIEFS. HENCE

SLAIC FELT IT COULD DO SAG "SERVICE" BY OFFERING MORE ACCEPTABLE PLAN.

3. MOTLANA AND COLLEAGUES HAD BEEN DOING QUICK RESEARCH IN STUDYING AND COPYING JOHANNESBURG CITY COUNCIL LEAGAL BASIS AND STRUCTURE. THEY PLANNED PROPOSE SAME FOR SOWETO, PRESENTING PLAN FIRST TO SOWETO AUDIENCE AND THEN TO MINISTER M.C. BOTHA. MAJOR INNOVATION WOULD BE REQUEST THAT SOWETO COUNCIL BE RESPONSIBLE TO NATIONAL RATHER THAN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, WHICH SLAIC BELIEVED HOPELESSLY REDNECK. IN ADDITION, REQUEST WOULD BE MADE FOR GIANT SAG SUBSIDY, MORE THAN MADE OTHER CITY COUNCILS, JUSTIFIED ON GROUND SOWETO HAD BEEN DEPRIVED DEVELOPMENT OF NORMAL TAX BASE BECAUSE IT WAS DESIGNATED MAINLY (POVERTY-LEVEL) RESIDENTIAL.

4. MOTLANA SAID SRC AND STUDENTS WERE ON BOARD AND COULD RESPECT ALL SLAIC MEMBERS AND THEIR EFFORTS (EVEN MOSALA RETAINED SUPPORT BECAUSE HE HAD LEFT UBC IN GOOD TIME). MOST MEMBERS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH BPC/SASO, WHICH HAVE LONG SINCE DISPLACED ANC/PRC AS MOST POPULAR, CREDIBLE ORGANIZATIONS FOR CHANGE. ANC AND PAC ARE OF COURSE BANNED, AS BPC AND SASO ARE NOT. BLACKS ARE CAREFUL AVOID ASSOCIATION WITH ANC/PAC WHICH, IF DISCOVERED BY POLICE COULD OR WOULD LAND THEM IN JAIL.

5. COMMENT: MOTLANA IS REMARKABLE MAN, TAKING TIME GLADLY FROM NIGHT-AND-DAY MEDICAL PRACTICE TO PURSUE ALMOST HOPELESS
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PAGE 03 JOHANN 01814 141507Z

MEDICATION REGIME FOR RELIEF FROM GOVERNMENTAL SCLEROSIS. AT END OF TALK, MOTLANA SAID HE TOOK GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT FROM INITIATIVES REGARDING SOUTH AFRICA AND ACTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS BY PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG. HIS RHETORIC SUGGESTED HE WANTED MORE FROM US, MORE BUT GAMBITS WERE TACTICAL AND AT HEART HE WAS ELATED.
JOHNSON

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